

LOVE

QUALITY
PUBLICATIONS
PUBLICATION

L.C.D.
4

APRIL No. 4

10¢

Confessions

TORMENTED HEARTS
AND JOYOUS
DREAMS...ALL
ARE PRESENT
IN THESE DRAMAS
OF DESIRE





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SIZES

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16 18 20
38 40 42
44 46 48

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7⁹⁵

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COLORS Black, Green, Brown, Light Blue, Grey, Purple, Pink, Maize, Royal and Aqua.



SIZES

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16 18 20
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10-DAY MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE — Send

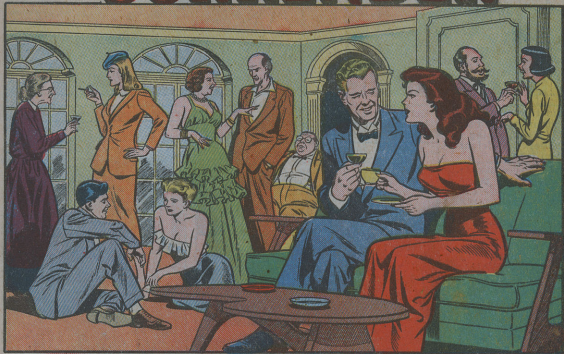
coupon, pay postman for dresses. Or enclose complete purchase price and receive postpaid. If not delighted, feel free to return for immediate purchase price refund!



LOVE CONFESSIONS

WHY WAS I RESTLESS? I HAD MY LITTLE BOOK STORE IN PEACEFUL DARENTON, AND I HAD THE TENDER LOVE OF WADE HAMLIN WHO TREATED ME AS IF I WERE SOME FRAGILE DREAM! THEN WHY DID HIS KISSES LEAVE ME TREMBLING WITH STRANGE DISAPPOINTMENT? I FOUND THE ANSWER AMONG THE BRIGHT LIGHTS OF NEW YORK, IN THE DEMANDING ARMS OF BRUCE GAINES WHO KNEW ONLY TOO WELL HOW TO FAN THE EMBERS OF BURIED PASSION...HOW TO LEAD THE RELUCTANT HEART TO ITS...

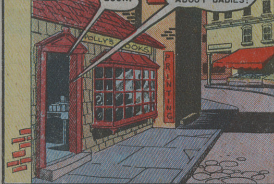
Night of SURRENDER



What could I know of Life when I had never been away from stodgy Darenton or the little book store I inherited?

HERE YOU ARE, MRS. DESSER! I'M SURE YOU'LL ENJOY THE BOOK!

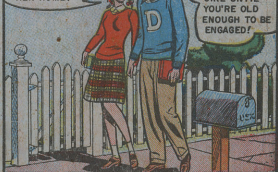
I KNOW I WILL, POLLY! I JUST LOVE BOOKS ABOUT BABIES!



How could I understand Love when I had known only the reverent adoration of Wade Hamlin since our school days together?

DON FERRIS ALWAYS KISSES MITZY BOWE WHEN HE TAKES HER HOME!

HE SHOULDN'T, POLLY! IT ISN'T RIGHT TO KISS A GIRL UNTIL YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO BE ENGAGED!



LOVE CONFESSIONS

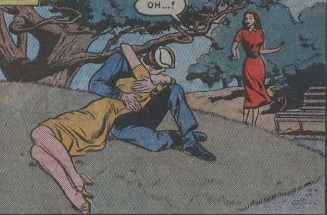
The night Wade gave me my engagement ring, he kissed me...as if he were touching a fragile flower that might wilt!

OH, MY DEAREST ONE! YOU ARE LIKE A LOVELY ANGEL! HOW CAN I DARE PROFANE SUCH PURITY WITH MY TOUCH?

BUT I WANT TO BE KISSED, WADE!

I believed Wade...but sometimes at night, when I took a short-cut home through the park, I saw another kind of love!

OH...!



And then strange yearnings would stir me, a demanding hunger that frightened me!

I MUST BE WICKED! I WANT WADE TO CRUSH ME AND KISS ME AND LOVE ME LIKE THAT! BUT HE'D BE SHOCKED IF HE KNEW HOW I FEEL!



Between customers at the book store, I had written a novel...a story of love as I believed it!

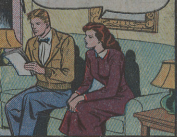
"BELOVED", HE WHISPERED, "I DARE NOT ASK TO TOUCH THE PETAL-TIPS OF YOUR FINGERS, FOR I AM UNWORTHY OF LOVE SO PURE!"



Wade thought it was wonderful!

IT'S BEAUTIFUL, DEAREST! IT IS LIKE YOU, SHINING WITH THE TENDERNESS OF PURE LOVE!

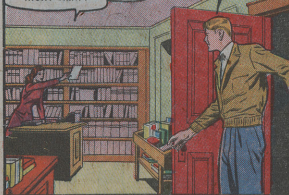
I GUESS SO, WADE! IF YOU THINK IT'S REALLY GOOD, I'LL SEND IT TO AN AGENT I READ ABOUT IN NEW YORK! HE MIGHT SELL IT!



There was a long wait, and then the miracle...

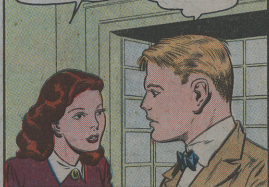
WADE! WADE! BRUCE GAINES, THE AGENT, SOLD MY NOVEL! DUNSON IS PUBLISHING IT RIGHT AWAY!

OH, DEAREST, HOW WONDERFUL!

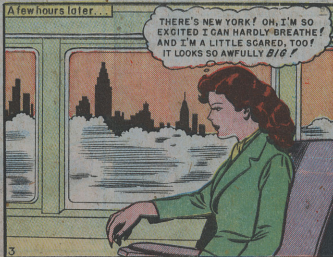
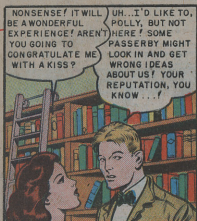


THEY WANT ME TO COME TO NEW YORK FOR AN AUTHOR'S TEA, TO MEET THE CRITICS AND AUTOGRAPH COPIES! I'M SO EXCITED!

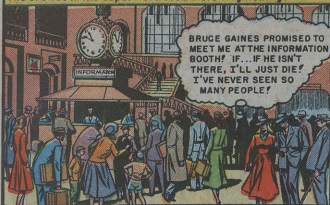
TO NEW YORK? BUT... BUT POLLY, YOU'VE NEVER BEEN THERE! YOU'D BE A TENDER LAMB AMONG THOSE WOLVES!



LOVE CONFESSIONS.



The crowds in the depot were even more frightening!



BRUCE GAINES PROMISED TO MEET ME AT THE INFORMATION BOOTH! IF... IF HE ISN'T THERE, I'LL JUST DIE! I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MANY PEOPLE!

EXCUSE ME, BUT I WAS TO MEET A MR. GAINES HERE...

HOLY H. SMOKE! I'M BRUCE GAINES, HONEY! DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE POLLY LONG?



I whirled, gazing at a strong, handsome face and startled blue eyes! Then I was literally swept off my feet!

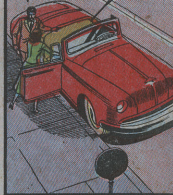
COME ON, KITTEN! LET'S GET OUT OF THIS JAM SO I CAN DO FULL JUSTICE TO YOU! SUCH LOOKS DESERVE UNDIVIDED ATTENTION!

OH... I... I EXPECTED A MUCH OLDER MAN!



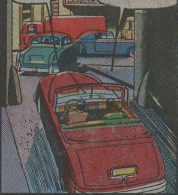
I COULDN'T DECIDE WHAT TO EXPECT, POLLY... BUT THE ONE THING I DIDN'T EXPECT WAS A DREAM LIKE YOU!

I THINK YOU'RE BEING VERY GALLANT, MR. GAINES!



IF YOU DON'T CUT OUT THAT MISTER GAINES STUFF AND CALL ME BRUCE, YOU'LL FIND ME DARNED UNGALLANT, HONEY!

ALL RIGHT... BRUCE! TELL ME WHAT THE BIG BUILDINGS ARE, WILL YOU? I'VE NEVER BEEN TO NEW YORK BEFORE!



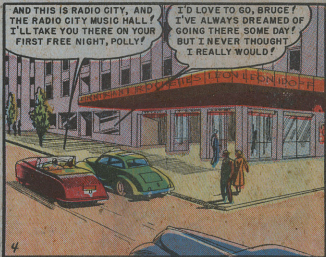
STRETCH YOUR NECK, HONEY! YOU'RE PASSING THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING!

MY GOODNESS, IT'S SO HIGH!



AND THIS IS RADIO CITY, AND THE RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL! I'LL TAKE YOU THERE ON YOUR FIRST FREE NIGHT, POLLY!

I'D LOVE TO GO, BRUCE! I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF GOING THERE SOME DAY! BUT I NEVER THOUGHT I REALLY WOULD!



LOVE CONFESSIONS

He drove me to a magnificent hotel...

DUNSON MADE A RESERVATION FOR YOU HERE, POLLY! I'LL COME UP LONG ENOUGH TO SEE YOU SETTLED AND ARRANGE YOUR TIME!

YOU'RE AWFULLY KIND, BRUCE! DO ALL YOUR AUTHORS GET THIS KIND OF SERVICE WHEN THEY VISIT NEW YORK?

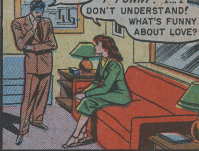


I WOULDN'T KNOW, KITTEN! I'VE NEVER HAD AN AUTHOR QUITE LIKE YOU BEFORE! UNTIL NOW, I THOUGHT MONEY WAS THE ONLY REWARD IN THIS RACKET!



When we were alone in the room, Bruce stared at me for a long time! I wondered if he could hear the pounding of my heart!

I CAN'T GET OVER IT! ALL THOSE LOOKS AND A SENSE OF HUMOR, TOO! YOUR "LOVE AWAKENS" IS THE FUNNIEST BOOK I EVER READ!



F-FUNNY? I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHAT'S FUNNY ABOUT LOVE?

HEY! DO YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU WERE *SERIOUS* WHEN YOU WROTE THAT NOVEL? THAT'S REALLY YOUR IDEA OF LOVE?

WHY, OF COURSE I WAS SERIOUS! I DON'T SEE ANYTHING WRONG WITH IT!



OH, MY AUNT PAT'S CAT'S PANT S! WHAT A SHOCK YOU'RE IN FOR, SWEETHEART... IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE! YOU BETTER SIT DOWN!

YOU'VE GOT ME ALL CONFUSED, BRUCE! I... DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!



HONEY, NOBODY THOUGHT YOU WERE SERIOUS! "LOVE AWAKENS" IS BEING PROMOTED AS THE FUNNIEST BURLESQUE ON ROMANCE IN YEARS! WE ALL THOUGHT IT WAS A SCREAM!

OH...!



I was stunned, horrified! My mind felt frozen! I wanted to run and hide, to burst into tears!

GOOD GOSH, HAVEN'T YOU EVER HAD A BOY FRIEND? WOULD HE GO THROUGH A WHOLE BOOK AFRAID TO HOLD YOUR HAND?

CERTAINLY I HAVE! I'M ENGAGED TO A FINE YOUNG MAN AND HE SAID MY BOOK WAS BEAUTIFUL AND TRUE TO LIFE!



NOT TWO OF THEM IN ONE WORLD? HANNAH HELP ME, I'M LICKED! I DIDN'T THINK ANYBODY COULD BE THAT INNOCENT!



LOVE CONFESSIONS



For a moment I struggled against the demanding fire of his arms and lips! Then I felt resistance wash away on a fierce tide of longing!



THEN WE'RE GETTING SOMEWHERE, HONEY! A FEW MORE LESSONS AND YOU'LL BE ABLE TO LAUGH AT "LOVE AWAKENS," TOO!



Two hours later, when I met Bruce in the lobby, I had made up my mind what to do!



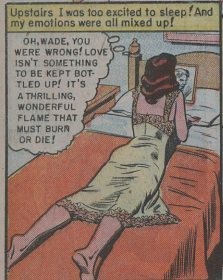
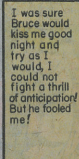
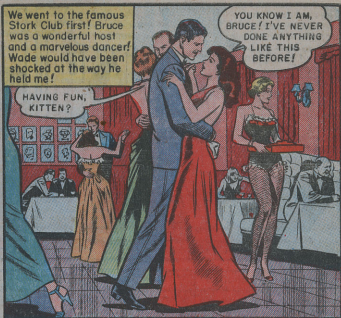
CRY IT OUT AND THEN GET DRESSED, KITTEN! I'LL BE BACK TO TAKE YOU TO DINNER AND A FEW NIGHT SPOTS! IT'S TIME YOU MATURED!



Bruce laughed and closed the door! I tried to cry but my emotions were mixed up! The memory of Bruce's kiss kept intruding!



LOVE CONFESSIONS

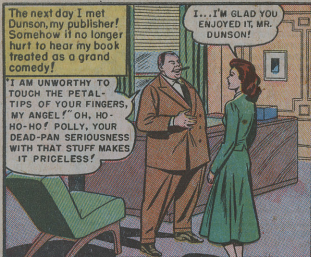


LOVE CONFESSIONS

The next day I met Dunson, my publisher! Somehow it no longer hurt to hear my book treated as a grand comedy!

"I AM UNWORTHY TO TOUCH THE PETAL-TIPS OF YOUR FINGERS, MY ANGEL!" OH, HO-HO-HO! POLLY, YOUR DEAD-PAN SERIOUSNESS WITH THAT STUFF MAKES IT PRICELESS!

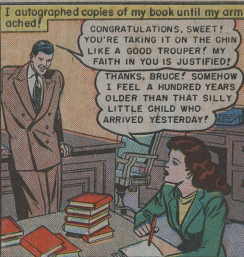
I... I'M GLAD YOU ENJOYED IT, MR. DUNSON!



I autographed copies of my book until my arm ached!

CONGRATULATIONS, SWEET! YOU'RE TAKING IT ON THE CHIN LIKE A GOOD TROOPER! MY FAITH IN YOU IS JUSTIFIED!

THANKS, BRUCE! SOMEHOW I FEEL A HUNDRED YEARS OLDER THAN THAT SILLY LITTLE CHILD WHO ARRIVED YESTERDAY!



At the reception I chatted gaily with the critics! When their laughter touched some sensitive point, I hid my feelings well!

YOU MADE THAT VICTORIAN ROMANCE STUFF SO REAL YOU SCARED ME, MISS LONG! I WAS AFRAID I'D MEET SOME OLD MAID WHO BELIEVED IT!

AS FAR AS YOU WOLVES ARE CONCERNED, SHE DOES! COME ON, POLLY! I'M TAKING YOU AWAY FROM ALL THIS!



My heart began to pound as Bruce led me away from the milling crowd, out onto a deserted balcony high above the city!

YOU LOOK SO GRIM, BRUCE! DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?

I'LL SAY YOU DID... AND YOU'RE GOING TO PAY THE PENALTY RIGHT NOW!



YOU SPOILED A NIGHT'S SLEEP FOR ME BY COMING TO LIFE WHEN I KISSED YOU YESTERDAY! I CAN'T GET YOU OUT OF MY BLOOD!

OH, BRUCE...!



Again I tried to resist... and again my conscience was drowned in a sea of surrender as his lips unlocked the shackles that had bound my heart!



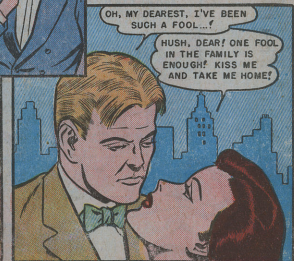
My throbbing heart was in the clouds... and then the roar of a familiar voice brought it to earth!

WADE...!

YOU CAD, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A SWEET, INNOCENT GIRL LIKE POLLY!



LOVE CONFESSIONS



Shackles of Devotion

CORBIN CLINIC
222 PARK LANE...
MILGROVE.

MISS LENORE MAXWELL
CITY!

DEAR MISS MAXWELL,
AT THE REQUEST OF DR. DENNIS MORAN WE
HAVE EXAMINED YOUR MOTHER THOROUGHLY
AND FIND...

TWO LOVES WERE
TEARING MY HEART TO
SHREDS, EACH DEMAND-
ING THE TERRIBLE
DECISION I COULD NOT
MAKE! ONE WAS A
BEAUTIFUL AND SELF-
LESS DEVOTION...THE
OTHER AN UGLY, SELF-
ISH ENSLAVEMENT! YET
EACH WAS ROOTED
DEEP IN MY HEART,
EACH TAKING ITS TOLL
OF ANGUISH FROM MY
UNCERTAINTY! HOW
COULD I CHOOSE...HOW
COULD *ANYONE*
CHOOSE...WHEN THE
HEART IS AT WAR
WITH CONSCIENCE?



... AND WE CAN HAVE A MOONLIGHT
SWIM AND THEN DRIVE TO ENLEY POINT
FOR LOBSTER!

IT SOUNDS WONDERFUL
BUT I'LL HAVE TO CHECK
WITH MOTHER! SHE HASN'T
BEEN FEELING TOO WELL!

I had never
really felt
the chains that
bound me until I
took mother
on my vacation
to Ocean
Bay!



Ever since my father died, mother had com-
plained of her nerves and I had given up
much to stay close to her!

WE'LL ONLY BE GONE
A COUPLE OF HOURS,
MOTHER! I WAS SURE
YOU WOULDN'T MIND!

UH... OF COURSE, DEAR!
I'M SURE THESE PAINS
AROUND MY HEART ARE
REALLY NOTHING! YOU GO
AND ENJOY YOURSELF!
I'LL MANAGE SOMEHOW!



LOVE CONFESSIONS

OH, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WEREN'T FEELING WELL, MOTHER! OF COURSE I WON'T LEAVE YOU! I'LL READ TO YOU UNTIL YOU FALL ASLEEP!

POOR LENORE! I'M SUCH A BURDEN ON YOU, BUT ONE OF THESE DAYS I WON'T BE HERE ANY MORE AND YOU'LL BE FREE!



For the first time I began to realize how lonely my life was as I watched some other girl go out to have fun in my place!

WELL, LENORE...ARE YOU READING TO ME OR JUST MOONING? YOU *KNOW* READING SOOTHES MY NERVES WHEN I HAVE THESE SPELLS!

UH...I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, MOTHER!



I was glad when my miserable two weeks were over! Back at the office I found the girls excited over a new doctor in town!

HIS NAME IS DR. DENNIS MORAN... AND IS HE HANDSOME! I'LL SPEND SOME! WOO-WOO! THE GIRLS ARE ALL GETTING SNIFFLES FOR AN EXCUSE TO VISIT HIM!

WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT HANDSOME MEN? I'LL SPEND MY NIGHTS READING TO MOTHER UNTIL I'M A DRIED-UP OLD MAID!



The thought ate at my heart until resentment flared into sharp rebellion!

I'VE READ THAT CUSHY BOOK UNTIL MY THROAT HURTS! WHY CAN'T YOU READ TO YOURSELF? THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH YOUR EYES!

LENORE! YOU UNGRATEFUL CHILD! AFTER I'VE SACRIFICED MY LIFE AND HEALTH TO BE A GOOD MOTHER TO YOU! I CAN'T STAND IT!



OH...! THOSE PAINS AGAIN! MY HEART! THE SHOCK WAS TOO MUCH! CALL THE DOCTOR AS FAST AS YOU CAN!

MOTHER, DEAREST! OH, WHAT HAVE I DONE?



I knew the phone number of Dr. Cowan, our old family physician, but suddenly a wild impulse seized me...

OPERATOR, GET ME THE NEW DOCTOR, DR. MORAN, PLEASE! AND HURRY!



In a few minutes I was opening the door, hearing the same warm, reassuring voice that had answered the telephone!

THANK YOU FOR COMING SO QUICKLY, DOCTOR! UPSTAIRS TO YOUR LEFT!

I'LL CALL YOU IF I NEED YOU, MISS MAXWELL!



IF SHE DIES, IT WILL BE MY FAULT! IT WAS THE SHOCK OF MY CRUEL WORDS THAT UPSET HER! HER HEART HAS NEVER BEEN STRONG!



It seemed an eternity until Dr. Moran reappeared, his smile dispelling my terrors!

SHE'S FINE AND SLEEPING LIKE A BABY! I'D SUGGEST YOU STOP WORRYING AND GET SOME REST, TOO! THERE'S NO DANGER!

OH, THANK YOU, DR. MORAN! I'LL NURSE HER SO CAREFULLY! THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IF I HADN'T UPSET HER!

Dr. Moran took my hand and an electric thrill shot through! I was afraid he might hear the thudding of my wild heart!

NONSENSE! YOU'RE MUCH TOO ATTRACTIVE TO MARTYR YOURSELF, MISS MAXWELL! GET SOME REST AND I'LL STOP BY IN THE MORNING!

YOU'RE WONDERFULLY REASSURING, DOCTOR! I...I'M GLAD I CALLED YOU!

I felt guilty, thinking of romance at such a time, but I could not still the surging of my heart!

HE'S SO WONDERFUL AND A BACHELOR, TOO! HE SAID I WAS ATTRACTIVE! DID HE REALLY MEAN IT, OR WAS HE JUST SAYING THAT TO DIVERT MY MIND FROM MOTHER?

Mother didn't question my calling a new Doctor and I was glad! I thought she looked practically well when she awoke...

WELL? JUST BECAUSE I BEAR MY BURDEN OF PAIN BRAVELY, YOU THINK I'M WELL! BUT I SUPPOSE I CAN'T EXPECT UNDERSTANDING OR PITY!

OH, MOTHER, I DO PITY YOU! AND I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU EVERY MOMENT! YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU AND I FEEL TERRIBLE!

Next morning, I was trembling with eagerness and anticipation when Dr. Moran arrived!

YOU NEED SOME RELAXATION, LENORE! HOW ABOUT A RIDE TONIGHT?

OH, I'D LOVE TO BUT I COULDN'T LEAVE MOTHER! I'VE NEVER LEFT HER ALONE EVENINGS, EVEN BEFORE THIS SPELL! I READ TO HER!

SOME! I WONDER IF HE WAS ANGRY! HE LOOKED AT ME SO ODDLY! OH, IF HE ONLY KNEW HOW TERRIBLY MUCH I WANTED TO GO!

HMMM!

In the days that followed, Mother seemed to be constantly demanding something! She looked well but complained of weakness!

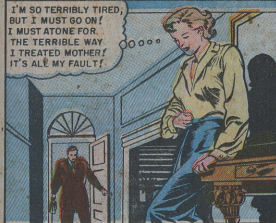
I KNOW I'M A TERRIBLE BURDEN ON YOU BUT I SHAN'T BE AROUND MUCH LONGER! I CAN'T BLAME YOU FOR HATING ME...

DON'T SAY THAT, MOTHER! I DON'T HATE YOU AND I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN FOR YOU!

LOVE CONFESSIONS

Dr. Moran came twice a day and always stayed for a little talk! He insisted I was driving myself too hard!

I'M SO TERRIBLY TIRED, BUT I MUST GO ON! I MUST ATONE FOR THE TERRIBLE WAY I TREATED MOTHER! IT'S ALL MY FAULT!



Suddenly strong arms were around me and I was drawn into the haven of refuge I had dreamed of!

LENORE, I CAN'T STAND THIS ANY LONGER! I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU! I'VE LOVED YOU SINCE THAT FIRST NIGHT! ARE YOU ANGRY?

NO... NO! HOW COULD I BE WHEN I'VE WANTED SO MUCH TO HAVE YOU LOVE ME? BUT I'VE BEEN AFRAID TO HOPE!



DEAREST, YOU'VE GOT TO STOP KILLING YOURSELF WITH WORK! WE'LL BE MARRIED RIGHT AWAY AND TAKE A NICE LONG TRIP...

AND LEAVE MOTHER? HOW CAN YOU SUGGEST SUCH A THING WHEN SHE'S SO HELPLESS? YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT!



I DO MEAN IT! IT'S TIME YOU FACED THE TRUTH! THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH YOUR MOTHER THAT A GOOD SPANKING WOULDN'T CURE!

OH---! WHAT A CRUEL, HORRIBLE THING TO SAY!



LISTEN TO ME! YOUR MOTHER IS STRONG AS A HORSE! THAT SPELL WAS JUST HER SELFISH WAY OF ENSLAVING YOU AND KEEPING YOU CLOSE! SHE'S FAKING! WALKING OUT WOULD CURE HER FAST!



I WON'T LISTEN! MOTHER WOULDN'T DO SUCH A TERRIBLE THING...

SHE IS DOING IT AND I'LL PROVE IT! I'LL HAVE HER EXAMINED BY SPECIALISTS AND SEND YOU THE REPORT! YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME!



But despite my denials, there was doubt in my heart! Finally I went to Mother...

DENNIS AND I ARE IN LOVE, MOTHER! WE WANT TO BE MARRIED AS SOON AS YOU'RE STRONG ENOUGH TO GET UP!

SO THAT'S IT! YOU WANT ME TO OVER-EXERT AND KILL MYSELF SO YOU TWO CAN BE FREE OF ME! IT'S ALL CLEAR TO ME NOW!

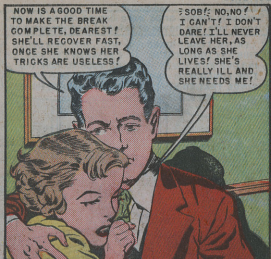


WHY DOESN'T HE JUST POISON THE MEDICINE? THAT WOULD BE QUICKER! I'M AT DEATH'S DOOR AND YOU THINK OF LOVE, YOU UNGRATEFUL CHILD!

STOP! STOP! I WON'T LISTEN! I WON'T!



LOVE CONFESSIONS



Dennis had Mother examined by specialists and sent me their report, confirming what he told me!



LOVE CONFESSIONS

And then, a few evenings later, as I came downstairs from reading to Mother...

I'M DR. MORAN'S OFFICE GIRL, MISS MAXWELL! HE'S BEEN HURT IN AN ACCIDENT! I'LL WATCH YOUR MOTHER WHILE YOU GO TO HIM! HURRY!

HURT? OH, YES, I'LL GO TO HIM!



OH, DENNIS, DENNIS!



With terror flooding my heart, I burst into Dennis' office...

DENNIS! BUT... BUT, THAT GIRL SAID YOU'D BEEN HURT! I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

YOU WILL IN A FEW MINUTES, SWEETHEART! I THINK YOU KNOW REVEREND HINGHLEY, DON'T YOU? I ASKED HIM TO COME OVER, TOO!



I was struggling to realize what was going on when suddenly the door of Dennis' office burst open...

M-MOTHER! BUT... BUT YOU WERE PARALYZED... HELPLESS!

YOU... YOU **KIDNAPPER!** THAT GIRL SAID YOU TWO WERE ELOPING! SHE SAID I'D MISS YOUR WEDDING IF I DIDN'T GET RIGHT OVER HERE!



I'M AFRAID YOU'VE BOTH BEEN TRICKED... BUT NOT TOO MUCH! I **WAS** HURT... WHEN LENORE TURNED ME DOWN! AND I HOPE THERE WILL BE A WEDDING, MOTHER!

YOU'RE WELL! YOU CAN WALK... RUN! YOU'RE NOT HELPLESS AT ALL!



I HAD TO TRICK YOU WITH THOSE MESSAGES, DEAREST! I HAD TO CONVINCE YOU THAT WE CAN LIVE OUR OWN LIVES WITHOUT HURTING YOUR MOTHER!

I BELIEVE YOU, DARLING! WE WILL LIVE OUR OWN, WONDERFUL LIVES... TOGETHER FOREVER!



WELL, IF YOU'RE HERE TO MARRY THEM, **GET AT IT!** I'M A SICK WOMAN! I SHOULD BE HOME IN BED, NOT TRAIPSING AROUND LIKE THIS!



THEY CALLED ME *Hussy*

THE HUSSY! RIGHT OUT IN BROAD DAYLIGHT TOO!



LITTLE WONDER TONGUES WAGGED WHEN THE SCION OF OUR TOWN'S FIRST FAMILY WAS SEEN WITH ME, STELLA PURDY, THE GIRL FROM THE WRONG SIDE OF THE TRACKS! BUT THOUGH MY EARS BURNED AT THE SOUND OF THEIR HOSTILE VOICES, MY HEART WOULD NOT HEED THEM, AND THE FLAME OF LOVE THAT SHELDON DRAKE HAD KINDLED THERE SCORNFUL THE FINGERS OF SHAME THAT WERE POINTED AT ME!

When you are born in the poor section of a town the size of Grimville, the chances are you won't wind up very far away from it!

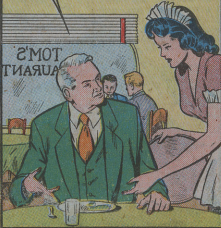
I'M SO SICK OF THESE OLD HOUSES, THIS AWFUL STREET... EVERYTHING!

If Grimville had had many factories I'd probably have been working in one of them! Since it didn't, I found myself doing next best... I was a waitress in the town's one half-decent restaurant!



THIS ROAST BEEF IS AWFUL! THINK I'M GOING TO PAY A DOLLAR AND A QUARTER FOR STUFF LIKE THAT? TAKE IT BACK!

YES, SIR! MAY I GET YOU SOMETHING ELSE, SIR?



LOVE CONFESSIONS

No, my daily life was no bed of roses, and at the end of each day I was thoroughly exhausted!

But, strangely enough, I didn't expect too much else out of life! I guess poverty gets to be a habit after awhile and you just don't think about it!

I knew I was pretty but I also felt that it would never do me much good! However, mom was not the only one who talked about it!

MY GOODNESS, STELLA, I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW A PRETTY GIRL LIKE YOU CAN'T GET A YOUNG MAN TO GO OUT WITH!

EVEN IF I SAW ONE AROUND THAT I CARED FOR, MOM, I'D STILL BE TOO TIRED TO GO OUT WITH HIM AT NIGHT!



I WONDER IF MOM'S RIGHT! MAYBE I'M TOO FUSSY ABOUT MEN! BUT THE ONES I SEE SICKEN ME, IF THEY DO ANYTHING!



H'MM...THERE GOES STELLA PURDY! I WONDER WHY SHE DOESN'T GET MARRIED? SHE'S GOOD LOOKING ENOUGH!

TOO PERSNICKETY, IF YOU ASK ME, TO TAKE UP WITH ANY OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD BOYS!



MAYBE THOSE OLD WOMEN ARE RIGHT, TOO? MAYBE I'M AFRAID TO GET INVOLVED WITH A NEIGHBORHOOD BOY BECAUSE IT WOULD MEAN STAYING IN THAT NEIGHBORHOOD FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!



How odd that on the very day when all these thoughts were troubling me, the thing I had never dared hope for should happen! It was later in the day!

I'M SEEING THINGS! THAT'S NONE OTHER THAN SHELDON DRAKE AND KAREN MOORE! ...IN THIS DUMP!

MAYBE THEIR HOUSES BURNED DOWN AND THEY COULDN'T EAT AT HOME! I'VE HEARD OF THEM BUT I NEVER THOUGHT THEY'D COME TO TOM'S IN PERSON!



HEARD OF THEM? WELL, WHO HASN'T? THEY'RE ONLY THE CHILDREN OF THE TWO RICHEST FAMILIES IN GRIMVILLE! UH-OH! THEY'VE GOT ONE OF YOUR TABLES!

H'MM! I'VE HEARD SOME OF THOSE RICH ONES OFTEN CONDESCEND TO TIP A WHOLE DIME!



Maybe I was a little bitter! A girl can get that way when she has nothing and comes face to face with two people who have everything!

HURRY, WAITRESS! WE DON'T HAVE ALL DAY!

I CAN SEE I'M GOING TO LIKE HER!



But as I stood before the table I quickly forgot my resentment, quickly forgot the hard face and snappish tone of Karen Moore! All I could see was the half sad, so handsome face of Sheldon Drake!



THERE'S SOMETHING TERRIBLY SAD ABOUT HIM, DESPITE HIS GOOD LOOKS AND HIS MONEY! AND WHY DOES HE MAKE ME FEEL SORT OF SOFT AND TENDER...AND SOMETHING ELSE I DON'T UNDERSTAND? I'LL TAKE THE HAM AND EGGS! I DON'T SUPPOSE IT'S SAFE TO EAT ANYTHING ELSE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!



AND WHAT WILL YOU HAVE, SHELTON DEAR? OH...ER...ANYTHING! IT DOESN'T MATTER!



THIS IS RIDICULOUS! ANYBODY WOULD SAY I WAS FALLING FOR HIM, THE WAY I CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF HIM!



NOW, SHELTON, DO I HAVE TO START BABYING YOU EVEN BEFORE WE GET MARRIED? SURELY YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO CHOOSE WHAT YOU WANT TO EAT...THAT IS IF YOU'D STOP LOOKING AT THIS...THIS WAITRESS LONG ENOUGH TO GLANCE AT THE MENU!

ER...I'LL HAVE THE HAM AND EGGS, TOO!



Why did I feel a stab of pain in my heart as I heard Karen Moore talk of marrying Sheldon? What was it to me? I was to ponder the problem as the pair ate their meal in silence! Sheldon Drake did not look up at me again!



But chiding myself did no good! Mingled emotions held me in their grip for the rest of the day!

HE LOOKED AT ME AS IF HE ADMIRED ME! AND I SEEMED TO FEEL SOME SORT OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US... AS IF WE KNEW EACH OTHER! OH, WHY CAN'T I HOPE...WHY... WHY?



GOODNESS, STELLA, YOU'RE ALL STARRY-EYED! IS ANYTHING WRONG?

JUST TIRED, AS USUAL, MOM!



It was an excuse to go to bed where I could dream of the impossible!

HOW WONDERFUL IT WOULD BE... HOW WONDERFUL...BUT HOW IMPOSSIBLE!



LOVE CONFESSIONS

But several days later. . .

STELLA, THERE'S SHELTON DRAKE AGAIN... AND ALONE THIS TIME! FUNNY THAT HE NEVER CAME IN BEFORE THE OTHER DAY AND NOW HE'S BACK! MAYBE HE LIKES OUR FOOD!

MORE LIKELY HE GOES FOR THE WAITRESS! GOOD LUCK, STELLA!

DON'T BE A SAP, GERTRUDE!

As I stood face to face with Sheldon Drake again, his slow smile seemed to warm me like the rays of the sun!

HELLO! I'M GLAD IT'S YOU AGAIN! I ALWAYS HAVE THIS TABLE!

THAT'S WHAT I HOPED FOR! PLEASE DON'T THINK I'M TRYING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION BUT I'VE WANTED TO KNOW YOU SINCE I WAS IN HERE THE OTHER DAY!

Maybe I should have become haughty or flippan! Maybe I should have been stern and indifferent! I was none of those things! All I knew was that my heart was singing with delight! This was what I had wanted... and I had no intention of spoiling it!

YOU'RE NOT ANGRY, I HOPE? CERTAINLY NOT!

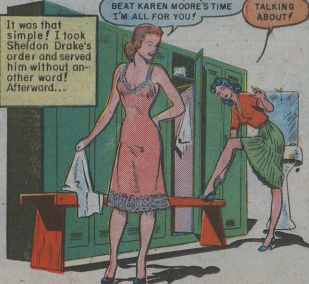
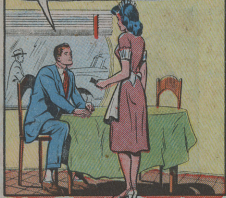
MAY I CALL FOR YOU WHEN YOU'RE THROUGH HERE TONIGHT?

I... I THINK SO!

NICE WORK, STELLA! I SAW YOU TALKING TO SHELTON DRAKE! HONEY, IF YOU CAN BEAT KAREN MOORE'S TIME I'M ALL FOR YOU!

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

It was that simple! I took Sheldon Drake's order and served him without another word! Afterward...



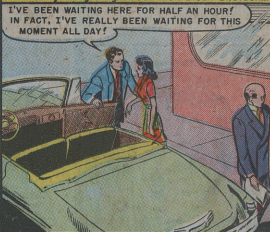
LOVE CONFESSIONS

But mixed with the eager anticipation I felt that night, was a doubt...



SHOULD I BE DOING THIS? SHELDON DRAKE'S ENGAGED TO KAREN MOORE! THAT WAS OBVIOUS ENOUGH WHEN THEY WERE HERE!

Yet all my misgivings fled when I saw Sheldon...



I'VE BEEN WAITING HERE FOR HALF AN HOUR! IN FACT, I'VE REALLY BEEN WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT ALL DAY!

I didn't say anything! I didn't know what to say! All I could do was wonder what I was doing in this wonderful car, next to this man who stirred my blood so strangely!

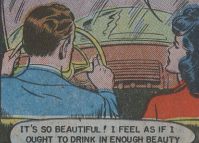
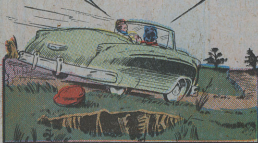
WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO? ER... I'M SORRY! I FORGOT TO INTRODUCE MYSELF! I'M SHELDON DRAKE!

I KNOW! I'M STELLA PURDY!

For a moment I felt the sting of shame! When a rich man takes a waitress out he can introduce himself whenever it suits him, I thought! But a moment later Sheldon was reassuring me!

STELLA, PLEASE DON'T THINK THAT I'M PLAYING THE WOLF! IT WAS THOUGHTLESS OF ME NOT TO INTRODUCE MYSELF IN THE RESTAURANT BUT THAT WAS ONLY BECAUSE I WAS SO JUMPY... SO AFRAID YOU'D LAUGH AT ME!

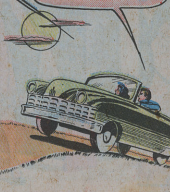
I DON'T THINK THERE WAS MUCH CHANCE OF THAT!



IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL! I FEEL AS IF I OUGHT TO DRINK IN ENOUGH BEAUTY TO LAST ME THROUGH ALL THE DULL DRAB DAYS!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO SOMEPLACE WHERE WE CAN DANCE? LET'S JUST DRIVE! THIS AIR SMELLS SO GOOD!

We drove swiftly over the country road... WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MOON COMING UP! LET'S STOP AND LOOK AT IT FOR A MOMENT!



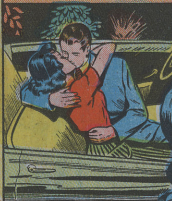
STELLA, IS LIFE REALLY THAT BLEAK FOR YOU? IT SHOULDN'T BE! LIFE SHOULD BE A THING OF CONTINUOUS BEAUTY FOR YOU! YOU'RE TOO LOVELY FOR ANYTHING ELSE!

LOVE CONFESSIONS

Words, I told myself...pretty but meaningless words...but that didn't stop the pounding of my heart... and then as I felt Sheldon's lips brush my cheek...

Wildly, desperately, I flung myself into his arms and returned his eager kisses with a fire and savagery that I never knew were in me!

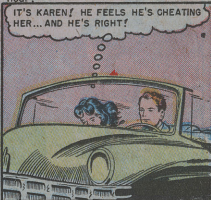
DON'T TALK, SHELDON! DON'T TALK, DARLING! IT'S ALL A DREAM AND IF WE FACE REALITY FOR ONE SECOND, WE'LL WAKE UP!



Had Sheldon asked me to fly to the ends of the earth with him at that moment, I'd have done it! Had he asked anything in the world of me at that moment, I'd have given it freely! But suddenly the momentary happiness that had been in his eyes seemed to fade and the half sad look reappeared...



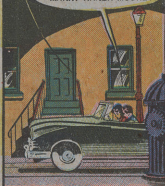
My heart cried out in anguish as we drove home, yet I dared not ask for an explanation for fear of what I'd hear!



MAYBE WE'D BETTER NOT SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN, SHELDON! PERHAPS NOT, STELLA, BUT IT'S GOING TO HURT! I... YOU SEE... I'M ENGAGED TO MARRY KAREN MOORE!

Listening to him actually say it somehow made it worse! I couldn't repress the sob that shook me! OH! SOBE

Tenderly, lovingly, Sheldon enfolded me in his arms...but over his shoulder I had a quick glimpse of one of the old ladies who were our neighbors! HUMPH!



LOVE CONFESSIONS

When Sheldon left me that night, I realized that nothing had been settled! Why hadn't I made it definite that I would not see him?

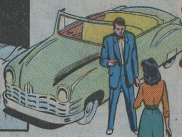
BECAUSE I LOVE HIM... THAT'S WHY! BECAUSE I WON'T GIVE UP WHILE THERE'S A LITTLE HOPE THAT I CAN TAKE HIM FROM KAREN MOORE!



The following evening, when I left the restaurant, Sheldon was waiting...

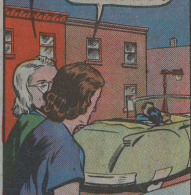
I COULDN'T HELP IT, STELLA! I HAD TO SEE YOU!

I KNOW, SHELDON!



And later... YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE ME, DID YOU? HUMPH! OF COURSE NOT! WHO'D THINK THE GIRL COULD BE SUCH A HUSSY?

WELL... I NEVER!



STELLA, WE'RE CAUSING COMMENT!

I DON'T CARE, SHELDON! NOTHING MATTERS... NOTHING BUT YOUR KISSES!



Now my hopeless romance with Sheldon Drake seemed to be running along on its own momentum! Wrong though I knew it to be, I was powerless to stop it... and the same was true of Sheldon! I saw him daily... and when he took me home I didn't care who saw us! Then...

STELLA, EVERYBODY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD'S TALKING ABOUT YOU! THEY ALL KNOW SHELDON DRAKE AND HIS FINE CAR AND THEY SAY HE WOULDN'T BE SEEING A GIRL ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE TRACKS UNLESS THERE WAS SOMETHING IN IT FOR HIM!

YOU DON'T BELIEVE THEM, DO YOU, MOM?



OF COURSE NOT, HONEY! I KNOW YOU WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG! BUT THOSE NEIGHBORS WILL BLACKEN YOUR REPUTATION UNTIL YOU WON'T STAND A CHANCE OF EVER GETTING A NICE BOY FOR A HUSBAND!

BUT I DON'T WANT JUST ANY BOY FOR A HUSBAND! I WANT SHELDON!



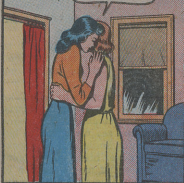
THAT'S ANOTHER THING, STELLA! EVERYBODY KNOWS HE'S ENGAGED TO KAREN MOORE! THEY SAY YOU'RE TRYING TO STEAL HIM FROM HER AND THAT HE'S ONLY USING YOU TO HAVE SOME FUN!

IT'S ALIE! A FILTHY LIE!



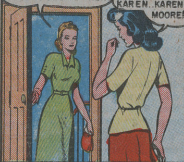
OH, MOMMY, MOMMY, I DON'T WANT TO HURT KAREN MOORE! I DON'T WANT TO TAKE WHAT MAY BE RIGHTFULLY HERS... BUT I CAN'T HELP IT! I LOVE SHELDON SO MADLY SOMETIMES I THINK I'LL DIE IF I CAN'T HAVE HIM!

MY POOR BABY!



It was so long before the gossip about Sheldon and me was all over town... and then one morning as I was about to go to work...

SORRY TO GALL SO EARLY BUT I KNOW SHELDON OCCUPIES YOUR EVENINGS AND YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TIME TO SEE ME THEN, JUST AS SHELDON HASN'T HAD TIME TO SEE ME THEN!



RELAX, MY DEAR! I'M NOT A GHOST! I'VE SIMPLY COME TO TELL YOU THAT THE NEWS FINALLY REACHED ME! HA! HA! THEY DO SAY THE WRONGED WOMAN IS ALWAYS THE LAST TO FIND OUT!

I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY EXCEPT THAT I LOVE SHELDON AND CAN'T HELP SEEING HIM!



BAH! DO YOU THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH A FLIMSY REASON LIKE THAT? SHELDON IS MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN LOVE, STELLA PURDY! I INTEND TO MARRY HIM BECAUSE OUR PARENTS DECIDED WHEN WE WERE CHILDREN THAT THE TWO GREAT FORTUNES OF GRIMVILLE SHOULD BE JOINED SOME DAY!

YOU... YOU DON'T EVEN LOVE HIM THEN?



MAYBE I DON'T LOVE HIM... BUT LOVE DOESN'T MATTER! WHAT MATTERS IS THE FOUNDING OF A NEW FAMILY... A FAMILY THAT WILL BE A POWER IN THE TOWN... IN THE STATE!

THEN THIS WAS THE CAUSE OF SHELDON'S SADNESS? HE KNEW THAT HE WAS ABOUT TO ENTER A LOVELESS MARRIAGE... TO PLEASE OVER-AMBITIOUS PARENTS!



Suddenly, Sheldon was standing there! I hadn't seen him until this moment!

THIS IS A COINCIDENCE, KAREN! I WAS COMING TO YOUR HOUSE TO TALK TO YOU BEFORE YOU WENT OUT ON YOUR SHOPPING ROUNDS! I SAW YOU DRIVE OFF AND FOLLOWED YOU HERE... AND I HEARD ALL YOU SAID!

BUT... BUT... I AM VERY FOND OF YOU, TOO, SHELDON!



THAT'S NOT ENOUGH! AND THE WAY I FEEL ABOUT YOU ISN'T ENOUGH! I'VE BEEN SEARCHING MY HEART AND I CAME TO TELL YOU I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT OUR PARENTS' PLANS FOR A DYNASTY! I LOVE STELLA AND I'M GOING TO MARRY HER!

OH!



The next moment Karen was slamming the front door, I was being swept into Sheldon's arms and Mom was coming in from the kitchen! But sweetest of all was the wild joy that overwhelmed me!

MY DARLING! DEAREST SHELDON!

DON'T LET ME INTERRUPT THIS BUT I OVERHEARD ALL YOU SAID FROM THE KITCHEN, AND I COULDN'T HELP THINKING HOW THERE'S NOTHING BETTER TO STOP MALICIOUS, BLABBER TONGUES THAN A GOOD, OLD-FASHIONED WEDDING!



LOVE CHARM

I FELT like a fool, coming to the hoodoo doctor—but who is wise in love? "The fellow is a real magician," I'd heard members of our crowd say. "He can tell the past and the future, and give charms that will win the heart of the one you love..." And I'd heard Harry Lincoln snort in disbelief. Harry was the stalwart, confident, practical type who didn't believe in magic. He'd asked the hoodoo doctor's address—444 Maygrove Lane—and then had said: "I want to know so I won't happen to go there and listen to his twaddle."

But I jotted down the address, and here I was. I touched the bell button. Somewhere a hushed clang sounded inside.

"Enter," said a deep, strange voice. I entered. The room was dim, hung with curtains. The walls were decorated with strange pictures. On the black-draped table stood a skull, a crystal ball. A sitting figure waited behind them, robed voluminously, with a veil-like face covering.

"Sit down, fair lady," boomed the voice, and I did so. "Now," continued the hoodoo man, "your name and problem?"

I summoned my courage. "If you're really adept at magic, you should be able to tell my name without asking."

"True, true." He seemed to think. "I sense the letter G. Your name is—yes—it is Grace. Grace Woolecroft."

"Why—"

"Is it not Grace Woolecroft? Your expression shows I am right. And your problem—it is of the heart, no?"

"Of the heart," I agreed. "I want a love charm."

"You seek to win the admiration, the love of a young man."

"You should be able to find out his name by your magic," I suggested.

"Perhaps," he boomed, "but you yourself must speak that name, or my magic will not serve you."

"All right, then. It—it is Harry Lincoln."

"Harry—Lincoln?" He sounded as if he had trouble with the name. "Let me see. I visualize him as tall, dark, and mocking."

"That's Harry."

"He says that he does not believe in magic."

"That's right. He does say that."

"And you wish him to fall in love with you."

"More than anything in the world!" I cried honestly.

"Ah." The robed, veiled figure seemed to grow tense. "You are sure, fair one, that you know what love means. This is no passing fancy."

I glared at him. "If love means to lie awake half the night, and then to dream of Harry the other half," I said passionately, "if it means to swear never to let him see me again, to bid goodbye to his maddening smile and his mocking admiration that he never brings to the point of saying how he feels about me—and then to welcome him eagerly when he deigns to see me—if that's what love means, I know what it is."

"You are eloquent, Miss Grace Woolecroft. But love means sacrifice. What would you give for Harry Lincoln's love?"

"Everything, naturally."

"Ah!" he sighed. "Money?"

"All I have." I felt that I was making a fool of him. What if this hoodoo man was a fake, and would try to swindle me? But he did have the power to tell my name and my wishes.

"You would marry him? Honor him? Be devoted to him?"

"Yes, I swear it. Let me have the charm that will win him."

"Oh," and his voice changed to a laughing one I knew. "You've always had that charm, Grace. I just wanted to be sure you loved me."

Rising, he threw off veil and robe. Harry Lincoln!

"Harry, you teasing devil!" I, too, sprang up and would have run from the house, but he caught me in arms like steel. He was kissing me. I was returning his kisses.

"Grace, I bribed that hoodoo fakér to let me take his place. When I noticed you jot down his address, I knew you'd be coming here. And I wanted to be sure that I was the man you were after."

"Didn't you know?" I demanded.

"I hadn't any idea," he assured me. "You laughed and argued with me, but never spoke a word to suggest that you loved me."

"That was my complaint about you," I confessed. "Now we know."

"Now we know," he repeated. Another kiss. "No more hoodoo magic for us. Let's visit a good, respectable, trustworthy minister."

LOVE CONFESSIONS

Helpless HELEN

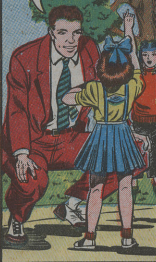
I was proud of my nickname HELPLESS HELEN! I thought it was cute and smart to look helpless and let some man do everything for me! Then I met Walt Byers, who despised helpless women! We fought, as only two people in love can fight ... but when the big emergency came and Walt's life hung in the balance, I learned what it costs to go through life as a

**HELPLESS
HELEN!**

I don't even remember when I first began to use the natural gallantry of men as my tool!

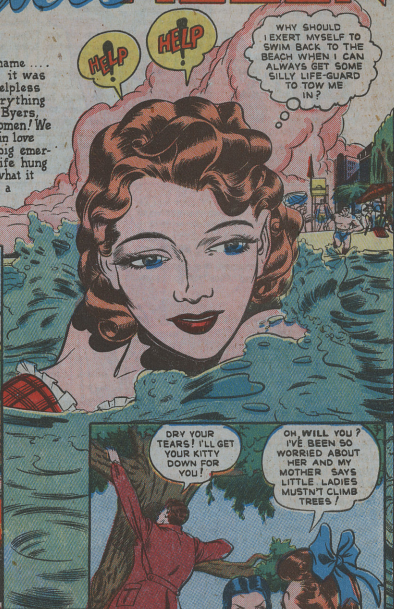
HERE, HERE, WHAT ARE ALL THESE TEARS FOR, HONEY? A PRETTY GIRL LIKE YOU SHOULDN'T BE CRYING!

SOB!
IT'S MY KITTY!
SH-SHE'S UP IN
TH-THAT TREE
AND I CAN'T
G-GET HER
DOWN! OH,
WHAT C-CAN
I DO?



DRY YOUR TEARS! I'LL GET YOUR KITTY DOWN FOR YOU!

OH, WILL YOU? I'VE BEEN SO WORRIED ABOUT HER AND MY MOTHER SAYS LITTLE LADIES MUSTN'T CLIMB TREES!



LOVE CONFESSIONS



I used men ruthlessly through high school and into college! My last year in college three of us took a trip out west!



The young man who stopped was tall, dark and handsome in a rugged, heart-stopping way!



HMM! YOU'RE COLLEGE GIRLS, AREN'T YOU? WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO WHEN YOU FINISH COLLEGE?



LOVE CONFESSIONS

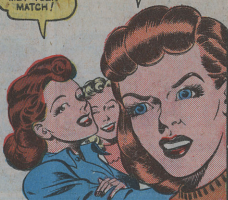


IN THAT CASE, I GUESS IF YOU'RE SMART ENOUGH TO MATCH MEN IN BUSINESS, YOU'RE SMART ENOUGH TO CHANGE YOUR OWN TIRE! SO LONG!

WHY, YOU ... INSUFFERABLE, UNSPEAKABLE BEAST! OF ALL THE RUDE...!

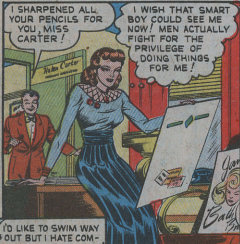
ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES, HELPLESS! YOU'VE FINALLY MET YOUR MATCH!

THAT... THAT...! OH, I HATE HIM! IF WE EVER MEET AGAIN...!



Then, a few years later, I took my vacation at exclusive White Beach Inn!

9
I didn't meet the insolent stranger again that trip, but often in the next couple of years, he came into my mind!

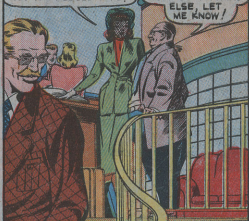


I SHARPENED ALL YOUR PENCILS FOR YOU, MISS CARTER!

I WISH THAT SMART BOY COULD SEE ME NOW! MEN ACTUALLY FIGHT FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF DOING THINGS FOR ME!

THANK YOU FOR CARRYING MY BAGS! I GUESS I'M NOT THE RUGGED TYPE!

THE PLEASURE WAS ALL MINE! IF I CAN DO ANYTHING ELSE, LET ME KNOW!



I'D LIKE TO SWIM WAY OUT BUT I HATE COMING ALL THE WAY BACK! OH, WELL... SOMEBODY WILL TOW ME IN IF I WORK IT RIGHT!

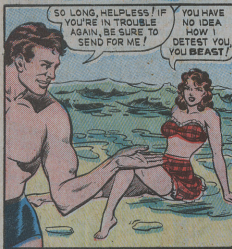
THAT FOOL GIRL, WHOM I THOUGHT I HAD SEEN BEFORE, MISJUDGED HER ABILITY!



WELL, FOR...! IT'S THE GIRL WHO COULDN'T CHANGE TIRES! UP TO YOUR OLD TRICKS, I SEE! YOU'RE IN NO TROUBLE!

OH! HELLO, TALL, DARK AND INSOLENT! I SEE YOU HAVEN'T LEARNED ANY MANNERS SINCE WE LAST MET!





That night the hotel held a big dance for its guests! I got the surprise of my life!



Dancing with Walt, feeling his strong arms around me, I forgot that I detested him that I fully intended to cut him cold!



I ONLY TOOK THE REGULAR LIFE GUARD'S PLACE FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS TODAY SO HE COULD TEND TO SOME BUSINESS IN TOWN FEEL BETTER?



I'M NOT SNOBBISH WALT! I WAS JUST CURIOUS! YOU INTRIGUE ME IN A REPULSIVE SORT OF WAY! ARE YOU ALWAYS SO NASTY TO GIRLS?

ONLY TO GIRLS WHO DISAPPOINT ME! YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL, INTELLIGENT, GAY! IT HURTS TO SEE YOU DELIBERATELY MAKE YOURSELF A CHEAT!



WHY SHOULDN'T I USE MEN? THEY'RE ALWAYS FALLING OVER THEMSELVES TO DO THINGS FOR ME! WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?

FOR ONE THING, SUPPOSE A REAL EMERGENCY ARISES AND YOU'RE HELPLESS BECAUSE YOU NEVER LEARNED TO DO ANYTHING FOR YOURSELF?

OH, DON'T BE SILLY! IF I EVER DECIDE TO BE A HERMIT, I'LL PRACTICE UP FIRST!



WHEN YOU TRICKED ME OUT THERE TODAY... WHAT IF SOMEONE HAD REALLY NEEDED ME? THEY MIGHT HAVE DROWNED BEFORE I COULD GET BACK!



YOU ARE A GLOOMY GUS, AREN'T YOU? OTHER GIRLS LET MEN DO THINGS FOR THEM, TOO! WHY PICK ON ME?

For an answer, Walt suddenly drew me close and his lips set my heart on fire! I wanted to struggle but my arms and lips defied me!

HERE'S WHY!

OH!



BECAUSE YOU CAME INTO MY LIFE ONE DAY ON A MOUNTAIN ROAD AND I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO GET YOU OUT OF IT! YOU'VE HAUNTED ME EVER SINCE!



I... I'VE THOUGHT OF YOU OFTEN TOO, I DIDN'T KNOW WHY!

Suddenly it all seemed logical and wonderful... our first meeting, remembrance, then finding ourselves together again!

I GUESS I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU, HELEN... AND THAT'S WHY THE ONE FLAW IN YOUR PERSONALITY BOTHERS ME SO! I WANT YOU PERFECT!



YOU'RE BEING SILLY ABOUT NOTHING! BUT IF IT WILL MAKE YOU ANY HAPPIER, I'LL COOK MY OWN MEALS TOMORROW! IT MUST BE LOVE, WALT!

YOU WON'T TAKE IT SERIOUSLY, AND I HOPE YOU NEVER HAVE TO!

WILL IT BE ALL RIGHT IF I JUST TAKE YOU SERIOUSLY, WALT? THAT'S ONE LESSON I'D LOVE TO LEARN BETTER!



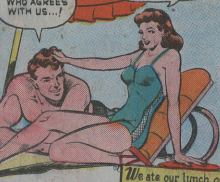
The next few days were too filled with the joy of discovery to be wasted in arguing! We avoided the subject of my helplessness!

DAD THINKS YOU'RE PRETTY WONDERFUL, TOO, HONEY! NOW IF WE CAN JUST FIND A PREACHER WHO AGREES WITH US...

NOT SO FAST, YOUNG MAN! I WANT TO BE PURSUED A LITTLE LONGER BEFORE I'M DRAGGED TO THE ALTAR!

OKAY! SUPPOSE I PURSUE YOU UP TO WOLF MOUNTAIN, FOR A PICNIC TOMORROW! WILL THAT SATISFY YOUR CRAVING?

COULD BE! I'LL LET YOU KNOW AFTER I'VE TASTED THE SANDWICHES!



The afternoon passed swiftly and then, as we got up to pack away the picnic things...

The next morning we set out early over an ancient road that had me scared silly...

OOO! TAKE IT EASY, WALT! ARE YOU SURE THIS TRAIL ISN'T RESERVED FOR MOUNTAIN GOATS?

NOBODY USES THIS ANYMORE SINCE THE HIGHWAY WAS PUT THROUGH THE PASS! THAT'S WHY I LIKE IT! IT'S WILD AND LONELY!

We ate our lunch on a breathtaking mountain-top and then sat and talked of our future! There was no premonition of tragedy!

...AND WE CAN BE OLD-FASHIONED AND GO TO NIAGARA FALLS ON OUR HONEYMOON!

WONDERFUL! I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF GOING THERE WITH SOMEONE I LOVED!



LOOK OUT! THE CLIFF'S EDGE IS CRUMBLING! JUMP!

EEEEK!



IT happened so suddenly! Walt managed to hurl me onto solid ground but he could not save himself!

WALT! OHHHH!

HANG ON, HELEN! SAVE YOURSELF!

I screamed for help... but in the wilderness there was no one to hear me, no one to help!

WALT! HE'S CAUGHT ON THAT LEDGE, BUT HE'S BADLY HURT! HELP! HELP! WON'T SOMEBODY HELP ME!



Walt's words came back to me like the echo of doom... **WHAT IF A REAL EMERGENCY AROSE?**

IF I GO FOR HELP, HE MIGHT ROLL OFF! I'VE GOT TO SAVE HIM MYSELF! THERE'S NOBODY TO HELP ME! WHAT CAN I DO?



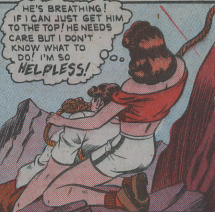
HELPLESS! HELPLESS! My own nickname came back to taunt me!

1508! IF WALT DIES IT WILL BE MY FAULT! I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT! I'VE NEVER MET EMERGENCIES ALONE BEFORE!



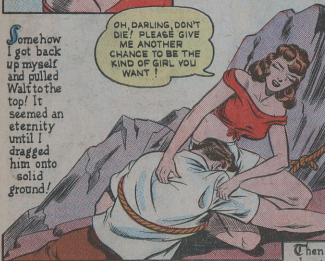
I found a coil of tow rope in the car and got down to the ledge! Fear gave me strength and courage!

HE'S BREATHING! IF I CAN JUST GET HIM TO THE TOP! HE NEEDS CARE BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO! I'M SO **HELPLESS!**

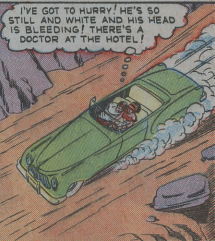


Somehow I got back up myself and pulled Walt to the top! It seemed an eternity until I dragged him onto solid ground!

OH, DARLING, DON'T DIE! PLEASE GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE TO BE THE KIND OF GIRL YOU WANT!



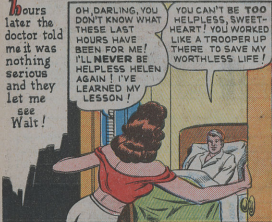
I'VE GOT TO HURRY! HE'S SO STILL AND WHITE AND HIS HEAD IS BLEEDING! THERE'S A DOCTOR AT THE HOTEL!



Hours later the doctor told me it was nothing serious and they let me see Walt!

OH, DARLING, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THESE LAST HOURS HAVE BEEN FOR ME! I'LL NEVER BE HELPLESS HELEN AGAIN! I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON!

YOU CAN'T BE TOO HELPLESS, SWEETHEART! YOU WORKED LIKE A TROOPER UP THERE TO SAVE MY WORTHLESS LIFE!



Then I knew that my whole life had been changed by those terrible hours on the mountain... and I was glad...

MY DEAREST, YOUR LIFE ISN'T WORTHLESS! IT'S MY WHOLE FUTURE!

AND YOURS IS MINE, MY LOVE! FOREVER AND EVER!



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